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New Literature

The most important books listed in these columns will receive notice in the book-review pages.

OLD TESTAMENT

BOOKS

PATON, L. B. *The Early Religion of Israel*. [Modern Religious Problems, edited by A. W. Vernon.] Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1910. Pp. 115. 50 cents.

The period covered in this little book extends from the earliest times down to the opening of the prophetic period. The history of the pre-prophetic religion of Israel is thus sketched rapidly and clearly. The essential identity of the pre-Mosaic religion with Semitic religion in general is pointed out and credit is given to Moses as the true founder of Israel's characteristic worship. To Moses is assigned the so-called "older Decalogue" and to the Kenites is given the credit of having furnished Israel with its worship of Jehovah. There is room for discussion of these and other points, as is inevitable in any attempt to reconstruct the religious history of a period so lacking in definite historical remains as that with which this book deals; but a careful reading of this presentation will be of great value to the average student of the Old Testament in general and to ministers in particular.

GOLDIN, H. E. *First and Second Years in Hebrew*. New York: T. Druckerman, 1910. Pp. 254.

This is an elementary textbook along the old lines. The progress of the student is made easy, but is correspondingly slow. A serious defect of the book as a guide for adults is the fact that the work of learning Hebrew is here made the task of the memory exclusively. No opportunity is given to the reasoning faculties to aid in the process. Words and forms are placed before the student to be learned, but no explanation of any kind is furnished as to the way in which such forms arise or the laws in accordance with which similar forms may be made. The work is better adapted to Jewish students than to any others.

The New Testament and The Psalms. In the Revised Version. Standard Edition.
New York: Thomas Nelson & Sons.

A new and attractive style of page commends this latest output of these publishers. The type is large and clear and runs across the entire page instead of being arranged in two columns as heretofore, making the reading much easier. This edition is published in various forms, ranging in price from 55 cents to \$5.00 each. The size is convenient for the pocket. Every attempt to put this best of all translations into the hands of more people deserves encouragement.

ARTICLES

KÖNIG, ED. "The Significance of the Patriarchs in the History of Religion," *The Expositor*, September, 1910, pp. 193-207.

The author would have us find in Abraham the real founder of Israel's religion, in that his conception of God was not dependent upon images, that he repudiated human sacrifice, that he was conscious of the moral character of Jehovah, that he had an outlook of blessing for the world, and that he emphasized faith and hope.

MARGOLIS, MAX L. "Complete Induction for the Identification of the Vocabulary in the Greek Versions of the Old Testament with Its Semitic Equivalents: Its Necessity and the Means of Obtaining It," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, September, 1910, pp. 301-12.

A valuable article pointing out the necessity of gathering together and considering carefully all the usages of any given word or phrase in the LXX in order to be

successful in the attempt to discover its Hebrew original. The author is rendering invaluable service by his studies in this field.

RELATED SUBJECTS

BOOKS

AMES, E. S. *The Psychology of Religious Experience*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1910. Pp. viii+429. \$2.50.

An important book upon a subject of increasing interest to all students of religion. A review will appear later in these pages.

FRANK, HENRY. *Modern Light on Immortality. Being an Original Excursion into Historical Research and Scientific Discovery Pointing to a New Solution of the Problem*. Boston: Sherman, French & Co., 1909. Pp. 467. \$1.85.

A rapid sketch of the history of human thought concerning immortality, followed by a consideration of the qualities of matter as now interpreted, resulting in the conclusion that an impalpable, invisible duplicate of the outer, visible body constitutes the imperishable part of human personality.

HALL, T. C. *History of Ethics within Organized Christianity*. New York: Scribner, 1910. Pp. xi+605. \$3.00.

As the title implies, this book confines itself to a statement and interpretation of the various systems of ethics that have arisen successively within the pale of the Christian church. The task is a great and important one, and the author is to be congratulated upon the degree of success he has achieved. All students of ethics will need this book.

The Unity of Religions. A Popular Discussion of Ancient and Modern Beliefs.

Edited by J. HERMANN RANDALL AND J. GARDNER SMITH. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co., 1910. Pp. viii+362. \$2.00.

A series of lectures by scholars of eminence given before a men's Bible class of five hundred members is here presented. The series furnishes a bird's-eye view of the great religions of the world and should prove interesting to many ministers and laymen.

LYMAN, E. W. *Theology and Human Problems. A Comparative Study of Absolute Idealism and Pragmatism as Interpreters of Religion*. New York: Scribner, 1910. Pp. 232. \$1.00.

A series of lectures at Yale on the Nathaniel William Taylor foundation. An interesting critique of two great opposing philosophies, neither of which is wholly satisfactory to the author.